

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 8-14 were amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments.

Claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Hunlich* (US Patent 6,584,107). Claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hunlich* (US Patent 6,584,107). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, the cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach “transmitting a configuration message containing the terminal address from a relevant hub to the switch when the communication terminal is being connected to a subscriber interface, wherein the configuration message contains the system address stored in the communication terminal; and determining the network access address via the configuration message “ as recited in claim 8.

Regarding *Hunlich*, the reference teaches terminal devices (KE) connected to a ring network, having individual addresses (EA) and network group addresses (GA) (col. 4, lines 33-40, 50-54). *Hunlich* discloses that the network group address (GA1) is set through specific addressing withinin a bit sequence (col. 4, lines 54-65). However, the network group address of *Hunlich* does not disclose “a system address designating the switch associated with the communication terminal” as required in claim 8.

Furthermore, the office action equated both subscriber interfaces and hubs with ring tables (RT1-RT3). These ring tables are provided in each ATM switching unit and provide routing information (col. 5, lines 3-31). In contrast, the present claims recite the interfaces are implemented via hubs connected to the communication network. In other words, the subscriber interface and the hub according to claim 8 are physical components for connecting the communication terminal to a communication network. No routing is directly affected by the subscriber interface and the hub in and of themselves. As such, these features are not equivalent,

as *Hunlich* is also silent regarding how a hub or a subscriber interface could be used for connecting a communication terminal to a communication network.

Hunlich is similarly silent regarding “transmitting a configuration message containing the terminal address from a relevant hub to the switch when the communication terminal is being connected to a subscriber interface.” *Hunlich* discloses a set up network with fixed association of terminal devices to switching units, and is thus silent regarding disconnecting or connecting steps of a terminal device. There is nothing in the disclosure that teaches a process of connecting a communication terminal that leads to a transmission of a message or of the configuration message. *Hunlich* discloses an ATM cell with virtual channel Identification transmitted within the virtual ring network path but does not provide any teaching regarding the transmitting of a configuration message contained a terminal address of a communication terminal from a relevant hub to the switch.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-14 are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket no. (0112740-186) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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